

Bill title: Travel Regional Investment Partnership Act

Bill number: [H.R. 4676](#)

Date introduced: Feb. 24, 2010

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Summary: This legislation creates a matching grant program in the Department of Commerce that will promote domestic tourism through local/regional partnerships.

The goals of the bill:

- Increase domestic tourism in communities across the country through public/private partnerships.
- H.R. 4676 creates a matching grant program in the Department of Commerce that will promote domestic tourism through local/regional partnerships. A local CVB can partner with tourism entities—including parks, resorts, etc. —to put forth a proposal for a matching grant.
- Competitive matching grants will range from \$100,000 to \$1 million.
- The Secretary of Commerce will ultimately determine qualifications and specifications for the competitive grant process.

Background:

- The travel and tourism industry is worth more than \$691 billion each year in direct spending. More than 85 percent of that is the result of domestic travel.
- Including indirect spending, the industry tops \$1.2 trillion.
- Approximately 8.3 million domestic jobs depend on the travel and tourism industry, and those jobs cannot be outsourced to other countries.
- The current economic downturn has created the most difficult economic environment for the domestic travel and tourism industry since the period following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. In 2009 alone, the industry contracted by nearly \$130 billion.
- Public-private partnerships have been underutilized in the promotion of travel and tourism and are a dynamic tool in creating new domestic tourism markets and promoting domestic regional tourism growth.